

COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR/Adzhar ASSR)

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SUBJECT Malkhalakidze Area Report

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#### Terrain and Villages

1. Malkhalakidze (Malkhalakidzeyebi, 41-33N, 42-18E), Adzhar ASSR, Georgian SSR, is a village in a mountainous forest region about 5 km from the Turkish border. The area between Malkhalakidze and the Turkish border is a mountainous region containing very few roads and passes. Geographical features of the area include Kushnari Mountain, Sanaliya Plateau, Matskvulta Plateau, and Chiruhi Plateau. Between Kushnari Mountain and Sanaliya Plateau lie Sanaliya Stream, Cancishela (sic) Stream, and a forest. Kushnari Mountain commands the entire area; from it can be seen the village of Kviakhidze (Kviakhidzeyebi, 41-33N, 42-14E).
2. In the vicinity of Chiruhi Plateau are the villages of Derchidze, Tomasheti, Shubani, Tselati, and Kobalta (see below for locations).
3. Population of villages in the area:

Malkhalakidze	70 houses, 300-350 persons
Chumashauri (unlocated)	20 houses
Giadauri (41-34N, 42-17E)	30-40 houses, 100-150 persons
Erduvat (unlocated)	5-6 houses
Odatur (unlocated)	5-6 houses
(Settlements of Erduvat and Odatur considered as one village.)	
Kutuar (unlocated)	30-40 houses
Kobalta (41-32N, 42-21E)	30-40 houses

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Shubani (41-31N, 42-21E)	70 houses
Yakobauri (unlocated)	70 houses
Tonasheti (two villages) (41-31N, 42-22E)	40 houses (both villages)
Tselati (41-30N, 42-24E)	20 houses
Darchidze (Darchidzeysbi, 41-32N, 42-23E)	100 houses

4. Some distances between localities

Makhalakidze - Batumi	5 hours by truck
Makhalakidze - Khulo (41-38N, 42-18E)	5 hours by truck
Makhalakidze - Hichauri (sic; possibly Kinchauri, 41-34N, 42-20N)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours by truck
Hichauri - Acarasuyu (sic)	3 hours by truck
Acarasuyu - Batumi	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour by truck

Population

5. The entire population of this border area consists of Georgian Moslems. Immediately after World War II, two Georgian Moslem residents of Makhalakidze, together with their wives and children, were taken from their homes early one morning and deported to Siberia. The reason was that they were not natives of the village. Thirty families from the village of Shubani, five families from the village of Oladauri, one family from Chumashauri, two families from Karapoti, one family from the village of Yakobauri, and five families from Erduvat were deported to Siberia in the same way and for the same reason. All of them were Moslem Georgians. All property of these persons was taken over by the kolkhozy and the owners received nothing in return.

6. Agriculture is the main occupation of residents of this frontier area. Potatoes, tobacco, and fruit are the main products. Collective farming is practiced. In the village of Makhalakidze there is a kolkhoz called Siteli Mesazuri. [REDACTED] in return for their work were given 300 grams of grain and 15 rubles per day. Chumashauri and Oladauri form one kolkhoz which is called Beriya Komuna. Erduvat, Odatur, Kutaur, and Kobalta form one kolkhoz. Shubani and Yakobauri make up one kolkhoz. Darchidze forms a kolkhoz.

7. The village of Khulo is the administrative center of the district. Persons living in the area must have a permit to move about freely, since this is a prohibited region, and they must go to Khulo once a year to renew this permit. Persons who do not have the permit are arrested. Soviet citizens from other areas must obtain special permission to enter this area. The MVD issues all permits. Hunting is not permitted in the area, but the grazing of livestock is permitted in the summer.

Religion

8. At Makhalakidze there is a mosque, called Beratli, which is at present being used as a tobacco depot. At Papashvilobi there is a temple which also is closed. The mosque at Shubani is being used as a storehouse for potatoes. There is a large mosque at Darchidze which is now used by the kolkhoz as a storehouse.

Roads

9. A wagon road following Sanaliya Stream leads from Makhalakidze to the foot of the Sanaliya Plateau, where the summer quarters of the border guard company at Makhalakidze are located. The road ends at the summer quarters.

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10. From Pselati to the Turkish border via Chirubi Plateau there is a wagon road.
11. From Tomasheti to the Sarichai region, where the border line passes, there is a wagon road which goes through the forest. This road continues as far as the border.
12. From the Sarichai area to Sanaliya Plateau there is a path suitable for horses.
13. A wagon road leads up Kushnari Mountain from Metskvalts (41-34N, 42-16E), a village near the foot of the mountain.
14. A wagon road leads from the village of Kvialkhidze to the border.
15. In 1945 ground leveling was done for a highway which would lead from Batumi through Makhalakidze, Papashvilebi, Oladauri, Coginauri, Dgivani (41-34N, 42-13E) and Kidzinovidze and would join at Shuakhevili (Shuakhevi ? 41-37N, 42-14E) the highway from the town of Khulo (41-38N, 42-18E). The part of the road from Makhalakidze through Shubani to Guzliyotiye was to be finished in the autumn of 1950. The road is dirt and is so narrow that two cars cannot pass. At certain points passing zones of two-car width have been constructed. Between the villages of Papashvilebi and Oladauri (a distance of two kilometers) there are two wooden bridges. One bridge is at Sacmelya (sic) and the second at Gamaotlebi, near Oladauri. The first bridge is five meters long and three meters wide. Trucks cannot pass over this bridge, but since the stream is usually dry they can pass over the stream bed. The second bridge is ten meters long and between 4½ and 5 meters wide. Trucks can safely pass over this bridge. There are two wooden bridges between the villages of Oladauri and Coginauri. The first bridge, located at a point near Coginauri known as Nachivri, is twelve meters long and 4½ to 5 meters wide. The second bridge, located at Komsolishiti (sic) near Lomanauri (41-35N, 42-14E) is the same size. The next bridge is a stone construction at the village of Shuakhevili. It is 1½ meters long and 5 meters wide. Twenty meters beyond this bridge the road which is under construction joins the Khulo - Batumi highway.

#### Mobilization

16. During World War II, 18 men from Makhalakidze entered military service, of whom only one returned to the village safely. In May 1950 a new call for military service was made. The reason given for this call was that there was a possibility of an attack on the Soviet Union by the British, American, and Turkish forces. Men between the ages of 27 and 55 were registered under the general mobilization order and were given mobilization cards.\*

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: The age group up to 27 is already covered by mobilization orders.

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